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# News Release

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## **Corps officials rule on contract protest for D.C. Public School**

**Baltimore** – Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, announced today that they have completed a review of a protest on a \$15 million contract awarded recently for construction at Miner Elementary School in northeast Washington, D.C.

Following this review, Corps procurement officials ruled July 10 that the bid of Davis/HRGM, the lowest bidder on this contract, was non-responsive due to a bid bond defect. Davis/HRGM bid the project as a joint venture; however, the required bid bond was submitted in the name of James G. Davis Construction Corporation of Rockville, Md., only. As a result, Corps officials have awarded the contract July 13 to the second lowest bidder, Hess Construction Company of Gaithersburg, Md. Hess' bid of \$15.5 million was two percent higher than the lowest bid.

The Corps' action was consistent with the decisions of the General Accounting Office.

"We remain committed to the full review and evaluation of any contract protest or issue that questions the integrity of the contract acquisition process for the renovation and modernization of D.C. Public Schools," said Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., commander of the Corps' Baltimore District. Since 1999, the Corps has awarded nearly \$300 million in contracts on behalf of the D.C. Public Schools.

The contract to modernize the Miner Elementary School is one of several contracts awarded recently by the Corps to perform entire school replacements or modernization as part of D.C. Public Schools' multi-million dollar school modernization program. Other recent construction contract awards under this program include a \$1.8 million contract to Manhattan Construction Company of Fairfax, Va., for the first phase of construction at Randle Highlands Elementary School; a \$17.1 million contract to Sigal Construction Corp. of Washington, D.C., for Barnard Elementary School; and a \$1.75 million contract to H.R. General Maintenance (HRGM) of Washington, D.C., for the first phase of construction at McKinley High School.